

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

March 17, 2015

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Fritts.

MINUTES: Mr. Price made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 24, 2015. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / SHERIFF'S BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget, Personal Services, Training-School was \$15,000.00. Sheriff Risner stated that he requested \$17,000.00 for training at budget time; however, only \$2,000.00 was approved. Road officers are required to have a minimum of 24 hours of certified training per year. We try to exceed 30 hours per officer to stay above the mandatory minimum. Depending on the type, we can use some of the asset forfeiture money towards training. Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-03A**. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SB 427 / DISTRIBUTIONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY INCOME TAX REVENUE: SB 427 provides for mandatory distributions of public safety local option income tax (LOIT) revenue to the eligible civil taxing units of an adopting county. Sheriff Risner stated that this bill wants to give volunteer fire departments a portion of the public safety money that is received from the Local Option Income Tax (LOIT). Out of the 31 counties that have the LOIT tax, 239 civil taxing units receive a portion of this money. If passed, the bill could expand the distribution to include another 328 civil taxing units. Sheriff Risner expressed his concern with the harm that this would cause. If passed, the bill would become effective January 1, 2016.

TRANSFER / EMERGENCY PLANNING / RIGHT TO KNOW FUND: A request has been made to transfer \$400.00 from Other Services & Charges, Printing into Capital Outlays, Office Equipment. The money will be used towards the purchase of three (3) I Pads and three (3) cases for the LEPC Spill Coordinators. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried. Let the record show that Mr. Price did abstain.

JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT / CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & 2014 UPDATE: Brad Cozza, Airport Manager, was present to give a final update on 2014. Mr. Cozza stated that they wrapped up 2014 with 25 based aircraft. Of the 70 public use airports in Indiana, this puts us at number 48. The FAA recently published their growth forecast for 2015 through 2035. In the forecast, they project a 1.4% growth year over year for general aviation. Mr. Cozza stated that this is a very positive number for us to take into consideration especially when looking at fuel prices. We continue to have the lowest fuel price within 50 miles. More fuel has been sold within the first two weeks of March than all of March last year. Indiana Aeronautical Charts for 2014-2015 were distributed to the Council Members. In speaking about the fuel prices, Mr. DeVries questioned if it is a good thing to be the lowest? If you are quite a bit lower than any surrounding airport, why not raise it? Mr. Cozza replied that the price is calculated based on a very objective manner. The price is based on a certain percentage per gallon and the only time our prices change is when we receive a new shipment of fuel. In response to a question from Mr. DeVries, Mr. Cozza replied that he tries to take a targeted approach when clients are at the airport. Treat bags that contain Mr. Cozza's business card are passed out as a hospitality to those using the airport. Further discussion took place.

UPDATE / COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mr. DeVries reported that he has been able to attend a number of dinner meetings within the past month that have been held by different county organizations. A brief summary about each meeting was given.

Mr. Norwine spoke briefly about the many services provided free of charge to the community by local organizations.

There being no further business, Mr. Jordan made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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